

PT NEWS

Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

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Linda Bethman, Staff Attorney

Board telephone: (410)764-4752

Board address: 4201 Patterson Avenue
 Baltimore MD 21215-2299

Website: dhmh.state.md.us/bphte

Continuing Education-License Renewal

During the most recent renewal period, Board staff noted some problems and, is therefore, writing this reminder to licensees for future renewals.

Renewal applications must be accompanied by a completed and signed continuing education form. Specific course titles, course sponsors, course date, and number of CEUs must be legibly written.


Courses must be specifically related to the clinical practice of physical therapy to be acceptable for license renewal. The Board has rejected those courses with topics determined not relevant to physical therapy, i.e. "Stress Reduction," "Weight Loss," "Anxiety," "Grief." While the Board endorses any learning experience that would enhance your knowledge base, it must adhere to the promulgated continuing regulations found at COMAR 10.38.08 when renewing licenses. **Be sure that courses you want to use as continuing education are specifically related to the clinical practice of physical therapy.** Administrative courses also should be specific to physical therapy practice.


If you are taking postgraduate courses, they too, must be clinically related to the practice of physical therapy or specific to the administration of a physical therapy practice. **Be familiar with COMAR 10.38.08 Continuing Education Regulations.**

Course sponsors are urged to make application to the Board for course approval at least two months prior to the course date. CEU course applications for sponsors must be accompanied by the required fee. By following this procedure, sponsors are ensured that they may advertise the approval and assure their course participants that the course is acceptable continuing education for license renewal. For individual licensees not sure whether a course would meet the Board's requirements, submit a copy of the course's hour-by-hour agenda for review. Such requests should be made to the Board at least four weeks prior to taking the course. You will receive a written response as soon as possible.

Remember the dates!!!! Continuing education for the 2002 renewal period must be earned between April 1, 2000 and March 31, 2002 -no exceptions!

Important Notices!

 The next law course will be held in November 2001. This course is offered twice a year and you can earn 0.6 CEUs. Interested? Call the Board office to be placed on the list.

 The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) will hold its educational meeting September 7-9, 2001 here in Baltimore. Contact FSBPT for further details at (800) 881-1430.

STOP

The following individuals did not renew their license and cannot practice physical therapy or limited physical therapy in Maryland. Some may have since had their licenses reinstated.

PTAs -

Stephanie Ashton
Judith Bayer
Alyssa Bekowies
Pamela Benson
Carrie Bolander
Daria Bradley
Thelma Brann
Patti Brorsen
Stacey Callan
Barbara Carey
Jennifer Carmody
Paul Chiarenza
Jodie Clabaugh
Donovan Clifford
Tamra Dick
Tiffany Ellis
James Eury
Kelly Fesel
Patricia Fineagan
Amy Foreman
Brian Foster
William Gallo
Kathleen Gatto
Cindy Gilliam
Alberta Goodman
James Green
Nicole Guest
Marc Hecht
Elsie Hennig
Janet Hieber
Phyllis Holden
John Jamerson
Michele Kelley
Joseph Kenny
Jennifer Kiel
Kathleen King
Melissa King
Peter King

Sherry Kinsley
Jason Koskinen
Karen Langer
Alice Leigh
Ralph Lutz
Candida Mann
Sheryl Mawn
Tracie Mayhew
Colleen McGee
Rebecca McKenzie
Debra Menard
Leslie Merz
Barbara Meyers
Sheri Michalsky
Collene Miller
Gena Miller
Patricia Mitchell
Peggy Noble
John O'Neill
Patty Palmer
Maureen Petersen
Tracy Pritts
Eileen Reitemeyer
John Rodriguez
Patricia Scott
Lori Sealy
Kevin Small
Tonita Smith
Lashella Stanfield
Jessica Strohecker
Connie Suffecool
Katie Tidwell
Diana Tucker
Tessa Van Der Snick
Karen Vito
Nancy Walker
Jennie Ward
Ramona Watts
Joanna Westfall
Thurman White
Todd Wilkerson
Edwina Witherspoon
Crystal Yohn
Bonnie Zeis

PTs-

Alison Achacoso
Eleanor Alderson
Carlyn Aliah
Christopher Alligood
Deborah Altman

George Anderson
Ellen Andrew
Derek Andrews
Julie Annulis
LeDon Anthony Robinson
Olga Arocho
Michelle Babcock
Dana Bacon
Heidi Baumeister
Daniel Baumstark
Patrick Baze
Nancy Beachler
John Beckwith
Angela Bennett
Jennifer Bertucci
Lois Bethea-Thompson
Linda Binder
David Blanke
Irene Blehein
Rosemary Blom
Jessica Bodden
Margaret Bodine-Reese
Kristine Bombaro
Maureen Brennan
Anne Broderick
Lisa Brook
J. Brooke Cawley
Gerri Carpenter
Kathy Carr
Mary Casey
Vivian Castillo
Julia Castleberry
Shawn Catherine Ballard
Meris Chang
Joyce Chatterson
Duane Christie
Sarah Clark
Nancy Clarke
Lisa Clawson
Melissa Coe
Kimberly Colone
Jennifer Conley
Tracy Constable
Deborah Constantine
Melissa Coviello
Kelly Crispell
David Cwynar
Kimberly Cwynar
J. David Wright
Kenneth Davis
Nancy Davison

Lisa deGroot
 Renee Deninger
 Michelle Denning
 Donna Diaz
 Eileen Dorrian
 Mary Draize
 Stephen Drake
 Ellaine DuPuis
 Catherine Dwyer
 Courtney Elderbaum
 Rosemary Elley
 Kendra Elmore
 Nancy Elsbree
 Alicia Elvidge
 Traci Embrack
 Ruth Findley
 Mark Fink
 Michael Fiore
 Lisa Fisher
 Michael Flaherty
 Ruth Flahive
 Cindy Folker
 Lori Fong
 Dana Forti
 Imelda Gacer
 Eileen Galang
 Christine Gebauer
 Tamara German
 Mohammad Gharavi
 Elizabeth Gill
 Donna Goldson
 Miriam Gottesfeld
 Kelley Gray
 Tracy Gregg
 Jennifer Grill
 Diane Hamel
 Heather Harris
 Mary Hartley
 Ericka Heggins
 Diana Heintz
 Jack Hill
 Andrea Hitchcock
 Amanda Hooks
 Victoria Houghton
 David Hudson
 Matthew Hunkovic
 Naomi Hunt
 Oluwakemi Ibidun
 Kirsten Ingheim
 Elaine Isaacs
 John Johnson

Mia Johnson
 Brian Jones
 Vida Jong
 Teresa Kaidy
 Susan Kane
 Barry Keane
 Tara Kempers
 Sara Kent
 Tamara Kilborne
 Jennifer Kilpatrick
 Julie Kinn
 Cynthia Kirk
 Lance Kittay
 Andrea Kline
 Zenobia Knight
 Brenda Larrimer
 Chana Lazaroff
 Amy Lazer
 Jennifer Lebsock
 Harvey Litofsky
 Allison Long
 Diane Lott
 Scott Love
 Kristen Magee
 Jackie Mah
 Michael Malament
 Kimberley Malcom
 Bradley Mannone
 Gregory Marchetti
 Ann Marie Airey
 Francine Marofsky
 Melissa Marsh
 Heidi Mattessich
 Cynthia Maurer
 Susan McCarty
 Suzanne McGettigan
 Molly McGreevey
 Brenda McMahon
 Cheryl McMillan
 Lori Mendoza
 Adele Merenstein
 Nathaniel Michael
 Carolyn Miklavic
 Susan Miller
 Timothy Mirkin
 Aileen Mitrovic
 Julie Modzelewski
 Jovelyn Mohammad
 Sheila Mongeon
 Saunsarae Montanez
 Sheryl Moran

Dina Morgan
 Vida Morley
 Sharon Muff
 Julianna Myaing
 Sheila Nance
 Anthony Nappi
 Aurora Navales
 Andrew Nemets
 Miyako Newell
 Alicia Nicoletta
 Lisa Norman
 Marie Olo
 Mary O'Callaghan
 Elizabeth O'Connor
 Juliet O'Mahony
 Kent Paller
 Dixie Parks
 Mary Perlstein
 Lynn Peterson
 Patricia Pezold
 Juliane Piscopo
 Renata Pivonka
 Pamela Plasberg
 Patricia Poissant
 Susan Pollard
 Josephine Pottinger
 Laura Probert
 James Pryce
 Conny Randolph
 Carla Reed
 Aurea Reyes
 William Rhodes
 Katherine Ries
 Toba Robinson
 Nicole Rokusek
 Elaine Ryan
 Frances Ryan
 Shelley Ryan
 Mary Sacks
 Sheila Sage
 Erik Sandvig
 Elaine Savage
 Gerda Schechter
 Laura Schmitt
 Wilma Scott
 Brenda Selby
 Rachel Shankok
 Keiba Shaw
 Matthew Shea
 Lynn Sherry
 Dianne Shineman

Ritu Sikri
 Camille Simmons
 Stephanie Simmons
 Preetee Singhal
 Sherri Skeeter
 Jason Smith
 Johanna Smith
 Katherine Smith
 Kamille Sprengle
 Jonathan Spry
 Lisa Stachler
 Ann Stein
 J. Steven Verkouteren
 Kathryn Stevens
 Ronda Stiekman
 Nancy Stokes
 Roland Swann
 Shannon Swartz
 Christine Sweigart
 Lois Taber
 Nancy Teich
 Cari Thachuk
 Jana Therrien
 Cynthia Tipping
 Richard Tomsho
 Robert Toney
 Kristine Trelles
 Julie Trometer
 Jana Trovato
 Cara Turner
 Bradley Umfress
 Tracy Umstot
 John VanderLinden
 Nancy Vincent
 Josh Walbert
 Amy Walker
 John Waltz
 Michele Wample
 Susan Wiepert
 Joshua Wies
 Dorsey Williams
 Daren Wilson
 Maria Wright
 Susan Wyatt
 Jennifer Yartym
 Rene Yerby
 Kristina Young
 Mary Young
 Joylin Zimmerman
 Elizabeth Zurich

PUBLIC PROTECTION



The Board takes seriously its legislative mandated responsibility of protecting the citizens of

Maryland from harm. In that role, it receives, reviews and investigates complaints, and when appropriate, sanctions the licensees involved. During the investigative process and, even when discussing a case, the Board has no knowledge of a person's background. The investigative report *does not* include a description of the person. The investigative report which is essentially taped interviews transcribed by a certified court reporter is reviewed by the entire Board. Investigators present facts only - never a personal opinion. A discussion of the facts takes place during the executive session of the Board meeting. After said discussion, the Board votes on the appropriate disposition of the case. Disposition of cases can be: (1) a referral to the Office of the Attorney General for possible charges; (2) dismissed for lack of possible violations of the Practice Act; (3) an informal meeting with the licensee for educational purposes; (4) a Letter of Education or (5) a Letter of Admonishment. If a case is sent to the Office of the Attorney General, it would be assigned to one of four administrative prosecutors by the Deputy Counsel. As a point of

information, the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners is ethnically and geographically diverse as is the Office of the Attorney General.

For the most part, complaints involve issues of fraudulent billing, inappropriate touching, improper supervision of PTAs and aides; utilizing unlicensed persons in the practice of physical therapy; PTAs treating a patient before the PT has performed the evaluation and written the treatment plan; treating too many patients in a work day; violating appropriate standards of practice; ethics violations; and, improper documentation. When assigned a case, the administrative prosecutor performs his/her own investigation into the facts, and, after a thorough study of the matter, writes the charge letter to the licensee(s) involved in the case. The Board then reviews the charge letter and votes to approve the charges. The charge letter is signed by the Board Chairperson and sent to the licensee -- the beginning of the full hearing process.

Many of the cases that are charged have been heard at the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). The only time a Board member would see the licensee is at the case resolution conference (CRC). This conference is part of the administrative process and its purpose is to allow an opportunity for the State and the licensee to arrive at a settlement prior to hearing. Usually one (at the most two) Board members are present at

the CRC. Also present, are the Board counsel, the Executive Director, the State's administrative prosecutor, the licensee and his/her counsel. If the case is settled, a Consent Order is drafted for the full Board approval.

After a hearing is held at OAH, the administrative law judge renders a proposed decision which includes findings of fact. There is an opportunity for both the State and the licensee to file exceptions to the decision. If that happens, the full Board will hold an exceptions hearing. Once the exceptions hearing is over, the Board takes into consideration the administrative law judge's proposed decision, the exceptions filed, and, makes its own ruling. A Final Order is then drafted. If the licensee is unhappy with the Order, he or she has recourse through the civil courts. The processes described offer a licensee every opportunity to be judged fairly and according to the facts.

The Board also has other options for hearing cases. It can be heard by the full Board or referred to a hearing panel of the Board. The hearing panel consists of three Board members. The case proceeds just as at a hearing before the full Board. The panel is charged with issuing a proposed decision to the Board. Both sides have the opportunity to present exceptions, and any exceptions hearing would be heard by the full Board. The final decision in any case is rendered by a full Board

decision.

While investigations are open, the Board staff cannot discuss the case with anyone. The investigators' files are confidential information. The situation becomes public only when a Final Order is issued by the Board.

Complaints may be dismissed as having no merit; not being a violation of the Practice Act; referred to other State agencies such as, the Consumer Protection Division or other Boards because they are not under this Board's purview; or are best resolved through an education process or informal hearing. Licensees are obligated to report any possible violations of the Practice Act. (See COMAR 10.38.02.01F.)

When deliberating a case, the Board seriously reviews all evidence and the facts. It also reviews past cases for sanctions imposed on similar violations in an effort to be consistent and appropriate with its Orders.

Expert witnesses are often used. This individual is usually a PT who is able to attest to appropriate standards of care. We keep a list of expert witnesses and, if you wish to offer your services in this manner, please contact the Board office. Expert witness duties vary. They may be asked to review patient records and report his/her findings. On other occasions, it may merely be a telephone call to a specialist in some type of physical therapy treatment to

ascertain whether or not the treatment rendered was appropriate to the patient's condition. If a case goes to hearing, often the expert witness is asked to testify for the State. The Board pays a stipend of \$75 per hour for the expert witness' time.

The most important thing to remember if you become part of a Board investigation is to cooperate fully, respond to subpoenas accurately and in a timely manner, answer questions truthfully, and wait for the process to play out. Everyone is treated professionally and fairly by the Board. It expects its licensees to act in the same manner in order to offer the highest quality of physical therapy care to the citizens of Maryland.

Moving???

Maryland law requires that you notify this office immediately of any address changes. You may use the form provided in this newsletter. If your name has changed since you received your license, include a copy of the legal document verifying such a change. **DUPLICATE LICENSES ARE NOT ISSUED FOR NAME CHANGES.**

ALERT

Changes to the Practice Act are posted on our website - dhmh.state.md.us and will be published in the Winter 2001 edition of this newsletter.